

(Milwaukee, WI)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced today that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide \$919,621 to two Milwaukee-based non-profit organizations to fund their HUD-sponsored Youthbuild Programs. Congresswoman Moore made the announcement this morning at the Milwaukee Christian Center, one of the organizations to receive funding.

The Youthbuild Program provides young, low-income men and women who lack a high school diploma with job training and leadership skills, while helping them to earn their high school equivalency degrees. Participants between the ages of 16 and 24 receive on-the-job training in the construction industry as they build and renovate affordable homes that will be made available to low-income and homeless families and individuals. Program graduates are left with meaningful experience in the homebuilding and construction trades, thus raising their chances of supporting themselves with a promising career.

Congresswoman Moore, along with HUD Midwest Regional Director Joseph P. Galvan and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, joined Youthbuild graduates today at the funding presentation to congratulate them on their hard work and success.

“Everyone wins with Youthbuild—young people are provided with the skills they need to get ahead, and the residents of Milwaukee are provided with high-quality affordable housing,” Congresswoman Moore said. “This program touches the lives of its participants and it also resonates throughout Milwaukee’s neighborhoods, as these new homes spread throughout the community.”

Milwaukee Christian Center, which received \$519,621 in HUD funding, is a multi-faceted social service and neighborhood development agency that helps over 7,000 people each year, over half of which are under the age of 18 and a vast majority of which are minorities. The Center offers before- and after-school programs; support and mentorship to juvenile offenders; recreational, health, and meal services to the elderly; and citizenship and ESL classes to immigrants.

The Private Industry Council (PIC) of Milwaukee County also received HUD funding for Youthbuild in the amount of \$400,000. PIC is a public/private partnership between government and business that plans, administers and coordinates employment and training programs for

adults and youth in Milwaukee County.

The issue of housing is a key concern for Congresswoman Moore, who sits on the Congressional committee that has jurisdiction over housing issues: the House Financial Services Committee. Congresswoman Moore has been consulting with local community leaders throughout her first year in office with the purpose of hearing the concerns of constituents, identifying the barriers that prevent Milwaukee from achieving good housing outcomes, and providing long term and strategic planning for improving housing policy.

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